REMARKS

The above-noted amendment of claims 1-40, cancellation of claim 41, and the addition of new claims 42-77, as well as the submission of revised Abstract, are respectfully submitted prior to initiation of the prosecution of this application in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The above-noted new and amended claims are respectfully submitted in order to more clearly and appropriately claim the subject matter which applicants considers to constitute their inventive contribution and to conform them to all of the requirements of U.S. practice. No new matter is included in these additions and amendments. Moreover, the revisions to the Abstract are submitted in order to clarify and also to conform it to all of the requirements of U.S. practice. No new matter is included in these amendments.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that these amendments now be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application now be initiated. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe such action can be taken, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any objections which the Examiner may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the use of hydroxycarboxylic acids and salts thereof as complexing agents a ready-to-use in reducing compositions for bleaching or permanently reshaping keratin fibres, in particular human keratin fibres and more especially the hair. The reducing composition comprises hydroxycarboxylic acids and salts thereof as complexing agents.

The invention also relates to ready to used method of using a reducing compositions and a kit for bleaching or permanently reshaping keratin fibres, which contain such complexing agents, to processes and devices or "kits" for bleaching or permanently reshaping keratin fibres, and also to the use of these compositions, processes and devices for bleaching or permanently reshaping human keratin fibres and more especially the hair.

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a ready-to-use reducing composition for bleaching or permanently reshaping keratin fibres. The reducing composition comprises hydroxycarboxylic acids and salts thereof as complexing agents.

The invention also relates to a method of using a reducing composition and a kit for bleaching or permanently reshaping keratin fibres.